

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

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Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** The last week of summer produced temperatures a few degrees cooler than normal across the State. High temperatures ranged from 62 degrees in Crescent City to 89 degrees in both Grants Pass and Medford. With the exception of Corvallis, all weather stations reported precipitation levels below normal. Moisture was scarce across southern Oregon as most stations recorded no precipitation.

**Field Crops:** Fall fieldwork was ongoing across the State. In Harney and Klamath counties, the third cutting of alfalfa continued with some fourth cutting in Klamath. Harvest and fall field preparation continued in Malheur County. Wheat seeding was underway in Sherman County. This was about a month earlier than last year. In Wasco County, grain farmers continued to prepare summer fallow and no till fields for planting. There was limited number of winter wheat fields being planted at higher elevations. In the Willamette Valley, fall seedbed preparations and seeding continued for grain and seed crops. In Marion County, tall fescue was seeded and sugarbeet seed fields were planted and starting to emerge. The hop and mint harvest was winding down. In Washington County, field corn was nearing maturity for silage. Most Red Clover fields had been threshed and the fourth cutting of alfalfa was underway. In Jackson and Josephine counties alfalfa and grass hay was still being cut and some winter wheat was being planted.

**Vegetables:** In eastern regions of the State, Klamath County reported potatoes were about 15% harvested and the Umatilla County potato crop was reported as average. In the Willamette Valley, sweet corn for processing was moving into the later stages of harvest. There were still ample supplies of fresh vegetables for farmer's markets and roadside stands. Tomatoes continued to produce and squash was doing well. In Lane County, fall garlic was reported planted. In Jackson and Josephine counties, even though truck gardens were starting to wind down, there were still lots of good fresh vegetables at roadside stand and farmer's markets.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** The main nursery activities continued to be irrigation along with rotation of plants in containers. Washington County reported that large arborvitae were being balled for shipment. Fall bedding plants are available at all retail outlets. Easter lily growers were harvesting yearling bulbs and bulblets.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Apple harvest was underway in the Willamette Valley with southern Oregon soon to follow. Pear harvest continued in Jackson County and was virtually complete in the Willamette Valley. Wine grapes were picked in Wasco, Washington, and Jackson counties. Cranberry growers on the southern coast finished leaf tissue sampling to monitor plant nutrition.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Livestock were in good shape despite dry conditions over much of the State. In western Oregon, pastures started showing some recovery from summer dormancy, but rain is needed to get any good forage going this fall. Ranchers were busy with fall weaning of calves and maintaining pastures so that animals have suitable forage. Southwestern Oregon continued with drought or dry conditions with some operations reporting hay crops near 50% of normal. In eastern Oregon, cool, fall-like weather improved conditions for gathering cattle from BLM and Forest Service ranges. Many cows headed for the home place. Calves were being weaned. Pastures were hurting as far as there being any nutritional value. Range conditions still dry.

**Crop Progress Week Ending 9/21/03**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Winter wheat planted (%)	14	5	5	5
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	6.3	—	—

**Soil Moisture Week Ending 9/21/03**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	23	59	18	—
Subsoil (%)	28	65	7	—

**Crop Condition Week Ending 9/21/03**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Range & Pasture (%)	10	46	37	7	0

**CLACKAMAS:** Fall seedbed preparations and seeding continues for grain and seed crops. Apple harvest is underway. Some evergreen blackberries still being picked. Sweet corn for processing moving into later stages of harvest. Still ample supplies of fresh vegetables for the farmers markets and roadside stands. Fall bedding plants available at most local nursery outlets. Many nurseries are back to irrigating. Pastures are starting to show some recovery from the summer dormancy, but more rain is needed to get any good forage this fall. Livestock remain in good condition. Finally, ranchers are getting a decent price for their fall sales.

**COOS\CURRY:** Weather dry, AgriMet station in Bandon recorded 0.02 inches in two precipitation days; Brookings-Harbor recorded 0.00 inches. Cranberry growers finished leaf tissue sampling to monitor plant nutrition; growers were focusing on irrigation. Easter lily growers in Curry County were harvesting yearling bulbs and bulblets; cover crops were being planted in fields where yearlings were harvested. Temperatures for inland areas of both Coos and Curry counties continue to be slightly below average for lows and above average for highs. Dry/drought conditions continue in both counties, with livestock operations reporting hay crops near last year's disaster levels (50% of "normal") and many pastures at or worse than last year's levels.

**JACKSON:** Some winter wheat being planted as well as getting soil worked up and ready. There has been some night time dew, but most ground is still very dry. Alfalfa and grass hay still being cut. This week had good hay drying temperatures. Pear harvest is moving along, with some Comice pears being picked, and some apples also being picked. The fruit packing houses are very busy getting the fruit processed and out to the markets. Some early varieties of wine grapes being picked. Vegetable farmers are still busy with harvest and lots of good fresh vegetables are still at road side stands and farmer's markets. Greenhouses busy with getting fall flower starts out to markets. Nurseries busy with stock upkeep, and selling fall planting trees and shrubs. Livestock ranchers are busy with some fall weaning of calves and trying to maintain pastures so that animals have suitable forage. This was the last week of irrigation water for some districts, so if we don't get any more rain soon to get fall pasture grasses growing, more

supplemental feeding will be needed. This week saw highs in the mid 80's and nights low 50's. The week was pleasant, but more rain is needed.

**JOSEPHINE:** Apples are ripening. Crop is thin, fruit is small. Grapes are starting to sugar. There was lots of haying going on around the Valley. It is a good year for hay. Some are getting their third cutting this week. Water has been plentiful for those who have the water systems and the fields are looking good. Truck farmers are starting to wind down. U-pick in some farms are going on now. Pumpkin patches are starting to show color. Good crop of vegetables this year. Weather has been wonderful. Warm to hot days, cooler nights, but still in the ripening range (i.e. 50's and a few 40's.)

**LANE:** Apples and pears looking very good. Asian pears looking very good. Fruit ripening early due to the cold nights and the warm days. Some strawberries and raspberries, but most are done. Good fall crops of vegetables. Fall garlic planted.

**MARION:** It is still a little too early to be seeding winter wheat but fields are being prepared for both winter wheat and perennial ryegrass plantings. Any tall fescue that is being fall seeded should be in the ground. Sugarbeet seed fields are planted and emerging. Hop and mint harvest should be mostly completed as is the harvest of most other field crops. Rain showers have interrupted some hay making and some of the very late harvested seed crops.

**WASHINGTON:** Sweet corn for processing winding down, yields average to a little above. Field corn nearing maturity for the silo. Bartlett pears are done. Blueberries still at stands as well as Ever-bearing strawberries. Tomatoes continue to produce and squash are doing well. Most Red Clover fields threshed. Fourth cutting alfalfa under way. Irrigation season nearing end and additional extended water must be ordered by Sept. 30, 2003. Large arborvitae being balled for shipment, irrigation of nursery crops continues. Rotation of plants in containers continues. High temperatures at 88 degrees, low at 46 degrees. Prunes about done.

## EASTERN OREGON

**HARNEY:** Cool, fall-like weather has improved conditions for early gathering of cattle from BLM and Forest Service ranges. Many cows are heading for the home place this week. Frost at night. Third cutting alfalfa being harvested. Calves being weaned.

**KLAMATH:** Potatoes 50% knocked down, 10% turning and 15% harvested. Third or fourth cutting of hay continues.

**MALHEUR:** All harvest operations continue followed by fall field preparation. Weather is about normal. Temperatures were warmer than past weeks were. No rain, and anything that is not irrigated has gone dry!

**SHERMAN:** Wheat seeding is going well, about a month earlier than last year or two. Still drier seeding conditions than one would like but best in four years. Range drier yet. Fall grain planting in full swing through the northern part of county. Adequate moisture to sprout the seed is there, but down about 6-8 inches.

**UMATILLA:** Potato crop is average. Farmers busy seeding wheat.

**WALLOWA:** There was rain the first of this week throughout the county. Not really enough rain to get fall crops to grow much. Temperatures cooled down a lot making it feel like fall. The pasture is still hurting as far as having any nutritional value.

**WASCO:** Wine grape picking is underway. It was a dry week. Grain farmers continued to prepare summer-fallow and no till fields for fall planting of winter wheat. There was only a limited number of fields being planted at the higher elevations. Pear harvest and alfalfa hay operations continued. The cattle were still doing fairly well on dry pastures.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 21, 2003 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	41	72	57	-2	53	-4	0.46	-0.26	3	1.89	0.04	102	10
Crescent City	45	62	54	-5	31	-26	0.01	-0.41	1	0.32	-0.76	30	5
Florence	39	75	57	-3	53	-15	0.15	-0.45	2	1.97	0.42	127	9
North Bend	45	68	57	-2	53	-7	0.17	-0.26	1	1.33	0.19	117	8
Tillamook	39	71	56	-3	41	-11	0.58	-0.35	3	3.01	0.60	125	10
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	41	79	60	-2	70	-8	0.42	0.07	2	1.05	0.08	108	6
Eugene	40	78	59	-4	67	-20	0.10	-0.32	2	0.81	-0.32	72	6
Hillsboro	41	80	59	-3	61	-11	0.28	-0.07	1	0.87	-0.13	87	3
McMinnville	36	82	58	-4	59	-19	0.09	-0.32	2	0.82	-0.24	77	6
Portland	48	78	61	-2	79	-11	0.20	-0.22	2	0.85	-0.36	70	6
Salem	43	78	60	-2	69	-8	0.28	-0.10	2	0.82	-0.19	81	5
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	39	89	63	-2	90	-10	0.01	-0.20	1	0.93	0.38	169	4
Medford	39	89	64	-2	100	-4	0.00	-0.21	0	0.86	0.27	146	2
Roseburg	43	83	62	-2	86	-6	0.10	-0.18	1	0.95	0.17	122	3
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	36	81	57	0	49	-1	0.00	-0.14	0	0.50	-0.05	91	3
Heppner	40	82	59	-1	66	-6	0.00	-0.21	0	0.46	-0.09	84	3
Hermiston	40	79	60	-3	73	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	0.72	0.37	206	1
John Day	39	77	57	-2	54	-7	0.13	-0.08	2	0.67	0.04	106	5
Moro	39	79	56	-3	47	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	0.25	-0.17	60	3
Pendleton	42	81	59	-3	68	-18	0.02	-0.12	1	0.63	0.22	154	2
The Dalles	47	81	62	4	87	22	0.02	-0.12	1	0.07	-0.35	17	2
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	30	82	54	-1	39	-3	0.00	-0.10	0	0.45	0.07	118	3
Burns	29	81	54	-2	32	-6	0.01	-0.13	1	0.60	0.18	143	5
Klamath Falls	28	82	54	-5	38	-24	0.00	-0.13	0	0.60	0.23	162	3
Lakeview	25	81	54	-4	35	-17	0.00	-0.14	0	0.63	0.21	150	2
Redmond	31	79	55	-3	37	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	0.56	0.24	175	5
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	28	77	53	-4	28	-21	0.05	-0.09	1	0.38	-0.18	68	4
Joseph	33	75	52	1	25	-5	0.19	-0.16	3	0.61	-0.30	67	7
La Grande	30	79	55	-4	37	-28	0.06	-0.15	2	0.35	-0.31	53	5
Union	32	80	55	-2	41	-11	0.08	-0.13	1	0.90	0.13	117	8
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	32	81	58	-4	60	-25	0.00	-0.14	0	0.14	-0.28	33	3
Rome	29	84	58	-1	59	-6	0.00	-0.14	0	0.38	-0.04	90	3

Summary based on National Weather Service data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Janice A. Goodwin, State Statistician

Oregon Crop Weather 25-03  
Mike Green, Math Statistician